

CITY OF MILFORD
MINUTES OF MEETING
October 19, 2017

A Strategic Plan Community Conversation meeting was held at the Music School of Delaware on Thursday, October 19, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.

Presiding: City Manager Eric Norenberg

In Attendance: Mark Douyard, Sara Pletcher, Mitch & Loretta Edmondson, Cheryl Clendaniel, Ellen Hall, Dave & Ann Burton, Ray & Judy Lynch, Mary Galligan, Pastor Andrew Scott, Sara Croce, Ron Evans, Ken & Ruth Behrans, Ed Simon, Dan Bond, Jennifer Antonik, Lang Redden, Pat Abel, Matt Babbitt, Tod VanEylen, Glen Stevenson, Bruce Fenerstein, Brian Baer, Alice Rausch, Val Randolph, Murrie Zlotziver

Also: Recording Secretary Evan Miller

City Manager Norenberg asked attendees to use colored dots provided to them and indicate their responses to the questions on the large sheets of paper on the walls. The summary of those answers is attached.

Upon completion of the dot exercise, City Manager Norenberg engaged the group with discussions based upon a handout provided. A summary of the discussion is as follows and the written responses are attached.

Safety: public safety, personal security and welfare, emergency preparedness

1. How could the City of Milford improve the overall feeling of safety in the coming five years?

There are many subcultures in the City of Milford and communication with these populations could be improved. A participant mentioned that immigration can be a challenge in Milford because it can impact the budget, safety, and schools.

There should be an increased Police presence in downtown and in parks.

There needs to be more enforcement downtown so that drivers reduce their speed when coming through the downtown. This would make pedestrians feel safer when walking.

The City could reach out to Code Purple to better understand homelessness in Milford.

2. How can greater “emergency preparedness” be achieved?

Participants expressed concerns over the use of the fire siren in town. It is harmful to peoples hearing and can be a nuisance when sleeping. The fire siren also impacts property values in the area.

Traffic is frequently backed up on DE-14. Some participants felt that roads in downtown Milford should be made into one ways to reduce traffic and improve pedestrian safety.

More concern was expressed about drivers traveling too fast in the downtown area.

3. Do you have any other thoughts related to safety?

Participants expressed concerns about 10th Street becoming a nightmare when the Milford High School lets out. This traffic can create congestion along US-113 and Rehoboth Blvd.

Bicycle safety was also a concern. Opening car doors on narrow streets can be dangerous. Bicycling can improve health and mood, so it should be promoted.